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From: Paul Lambert
Sent: Mon 1/26/2015 4:04:57 AM
Subject: Re: Revised Characteristics of Carcinogens Paper
[Key characteristics paper 1-16-15 \(2\) PFL edit.docx](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Dear friends and colleagues.

Greetings from, of all places, Lyon, where I just arrived to participate on a review panel for one of the internal scientific components at the IARC. Being in severe jet lag mode driven by being relegated sardine status by IARC on my way over here, I am in the enviable position of having nothing better to do than to make life worse for all of you. So here is my two cents on the document.

What we identified were ten **biological/biochemical processes** that contribute to carcinogenesis. These are NOT mechanisms. There is no need to call them mechanisms if the word doesn't fit. The document reads like a person attending an alcohol anonymous meeting who is in denial that he is an alcoholic... *'We want to call these shared features of carcinogens 'mechanisms' though we understand they are not mechanisms, but we still want to call them mechanisms. So we will call them mechanisms'* Admit it folks, they are NOT mechanisms! If you want anyone to read and appreciate the importance of this discussion, let's get over the fact that we are not defining mechanisms, but rather the biological/biochemical properties of an agent that contribute to carcinogenesis and then get on with telling the reader why they are important.

If you agree with me, then my changes may make sense to you and you should read my edited version and consider whether the term I have applied is optimal or not. If you don't, then there is probably no value in your reading my version unless you too are suffering from insomnia or severe jet lag.

Best wishes,

Grumpy Paul

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